

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2008

ABSTRACT OF DOCUMENT BEING CROSS FILED			CROSS FILED BY
FILE NO. LOND X-2 Pts. 3 Folder # 43	SOURCE RI/AR	DATE OF DOCUMENT 1 Aug. 45	ANALYST [Signature]
SUBJECT Interrogation of BOVENSIEPEN, Otto			20 Jan. 54
PERTINENT INFORMATION Pages 23,24,25,& 26.			

DEST AVAILABLE COPY

"PETER SCHÄFER":

§ 43. The detainee states that in practise there was only one group at his disposal for the carrying out of the tasks laid upon him by the Führer through Pancke. It was the so-called "Peter-Group", which by the way already existed when in the beginning of 1944 he took up the position after Wildner. At that time "Peter Schäfer" was the leader of the group, the other 2 or 3 members of which were all German. He cannot remember the names, but adds that their names were aliases.

He maintains that he does not know "Peter Schäfer"'s real name, but having been informed that he was identical with OTTO ALEXANDER FRIEDRICH SCHWERT, he states that his Christian name was OTTO. He describes Peter as:

"PETER", aged abt. 28. Height: abt. 180 cms.
Slim, black-haired. Untersturmführer.

The detainee states that he does not want to express himself further on "Peter Schäfer", with whom

with whom.....

he, by the way, associated a great deal. He could only say that "Peter Schäfer" was an idealist and that he had reported to be given special tasks. He belonged to the regiment SKORZENY.

As far as he knows "Peter" was removed in September 1944 in order to enter regiment Skorzeny for special tasks in France. Later on he came to the East Front, but the detainee saw him last in Copenhagen which he visited in March or April this year. He intended partly to call upon the place of service, partly to see his fiancée, a Danish citizen, Volksdeutscher. The detainee does not want to state the name of the fiancée. From here he went to Berlin, and since then the detainee has neither heard about him nor seen him.

CROSS REFERENCE FORM

FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

SECRET

ISSEL:

§ 44. In August 1944 Hauptsturmführer ISSEL came to Copenhagen, where he was to succeed "Peter Schäfer" as leader. The detainee described Issel:

ISSEL, aged abt. 34. Height: abt. 178 cms. Slender. Dark hair. Hauptsturmführer.

and he states that as far as he knows Issel had no alias. Having been informed, however, that Issel may have used the name of HORST WALDENBURG, he recollects that Issel used this name at the hotel in Copenhagen at which he lived. It is the only connection in which he has heard the name of Horst Waldenburg mentioned.

THE "PETER GROUP": § 45.

The detainee states that from the beginning the group consisted exclusively of Germans. Later on the Danes came, and the latter were recruited from the Schalburg-Corps. The detainee now states the names of Germans who have been members of the group, at the same time stating that as far as he knows the names are aliases:

HOLZER: small, square-built, light blue eyes.

FRITZ: aged abt. 22. Height: abt. 182 cms. Slender. Black-haired.

HIMMEL or HIMME, aged abt. 26. Height: abt. 182 cms, powerful, broad, black-haired.

(Either FRITZ or HIMMEL was killed during the police action at Amalienborg Castle, Sept. 19, 1944).

GRUNWALD, aged abt. 26, height: abt. 178 cms. Slim, fair.

NOLDE, aged abt. 28, height abt. 178 cms. Slim, black-haired.

GLAESSNER, aged abt. 32, abt. 180 cms. Powerful, black-haired.

Danish members:

JOHAN, aged abt. 30, abt. 175 cms. Slim, fair.

HARALD

"DEN RØDE", aged abt. 34, abt. 170 cms. Slim, ?

Name unknown, aged abt. 32, abt. 180 cms, fair. Lower arm and hand, possibly the right, partly paralysed.

TAGE ? Aged abt. 31, abt. 170 cms. Slim, fair.

In order to provide objects for the counter-terror the detainees made use of the so-called A-files, about which he explains:

LISTS OF OBJECTS:

§ 46. In Germany the Party had established a so-called A-file comprising names of persons who in a critical situation were to be taken in custody in

SECRET

in custody in.....

order to secure the Reich from within. This file had f.inst. been taken into use when the war broke out, when the Government took into custody prominent political opponents, who had hitherto been at liberty, f. inst. Social-democratic leaders, etc.

When he arrived in Denmark the detainee made up his mind to work up such a file here too, and he extended it to comprise firms which were principally against a collaboration with the Germans. He sent out orders of the day to the Abteilungen in his Office ordering them to provide objects with a reason in each individual case. In this way this file came into existence in Denmark, but the detainee can say nothing about from whom the Abteilungen received their information.

In order to execute the orders given by the Führer he made use of the above files, which were placed at the disposal of the "Peter Group". When denouncers had been liquidated or Germans had been shot, and when sabotage had taken place in a firm which was working for German account, the leader of the group submitted a report to Bovensiepen stating that a certain person or a certain firm would do as an object for reprisals, and at the same time Bovensiepen was told what could be said to the disadvantage of the person or firm in question with regard to relations with Germany. In the beginning the detainee always discussed the individual cases with Best according to his order from Pancke, but later on when the reprisal-actions became daily, he informed Best only in case of criminal cases, because in these cases Best agreed with Bovensiepen's ideas. He did not discuss matters with Pancke, but he informed him of them, because Pancke always agreed with the detainee's ways of dealing.

The detainee states that on some occasions Best also gave up objects to the detainee, f. inst. Best drew his attention to "Tuborgs Fabrikker", and it was Best who in the beginning provided lists of firms hostile to Germany, and who handed them over to the detainee, who again passed them over to "Peter". Best possibly received the lists from "Rüstungsstab".

But it also happened that Best had objections to the execution of certain reprisals, and these objections have all been complied with except in a few cases, another object being pointed out which then received Best's sanction. Bovensiepen stated that in a few cases the personnel of the Sipo placed voluntary men at the disposal of the "Peter-Group", which otherwise arranged everything itself. This was the case f. inst. in the countersabotage against the firm of "Aller".

SECRET

SECRET

regarding purely technical questions, i. inst. Reichssicherheitshauptamt, SD in Denmark, etc., and given names and descriptions of persons who have served under or together with him. On the other hand, he will not give the names of persons who in some way or other have been guilty of crimes, if he supposes or is sure that the person in question is at large.

Further it was not until after a thorough cross-examination that he admitted having backed up the orders for clearing-murders and countersabotage together with Pancke and Best, and he did not admit it until he had been confronted with Pancke.

The detainee makes the impression of being a cold and keen-sighted person who is able fully to judge the scope of his work, and who has realized the consequences, indeed, of the wrong he did when

obeying the orders given, even if he claims to have been personally unpunishable, as he has acted according to his duty of service conferred upon him for the interest of Germany.

RECOMMENDATION:

In my opinion Bovenziepen has incurred punishment as despite his own conviction and contrary to international agreements in force he has been guilty of heavy crimes in this country. The fact that he claims to have acted under orders cannot come into consideration, as he was staying in an enemy country.

Therefore, it is recommended that Bovenziepen be primarily handed over to the Danish courts for further treatment according to what has been stated above, in the alternative that he be handed over to proper allied instances to be judged as an international war criminal.

INTERROGATION CONCLUDED AUGUST 20, 1945, at 1700 hrs.

(initial) [illegible]

THIS IS ALL THE INFORMATION PERTINENT
TO THE SUBJECT IN THIS DOCUMENT.

SECRET